

Message Text

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DEPT PASS USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR HODDING CARTER

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, SPON,SF, UG

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S FEB. 17 PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 037514 TOSEC 020110

FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
PRESS CONFERENCE DEALING WITH THE DEATH OF ANGLICAN
BISHOP IN UGANDA AND REPORTED DEATH OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRISONER.

"Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS OFTEN
STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MORALITY AS AGAINST EXPEDIENCY,
AND PRINCIPLE AGAINST ACTIONS WHICH ARE
CONTRARY TO THE RULE OF MAN, RULE OF JUSTICE.AND SINCE
BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND YOU ARE BIBLICALLY INCLINED
AND YOU BEING A FORMER MINISTER, I WAS WONDERING IN THE
LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HERE AT THE UNITED NATIONS WE'VE
HAD MORE OR LESS THE ORDER OF THE DAY HAS BEEN EXPEDIENCY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 USUN N 00479 190024Z

AND THERE ARE SOME ACCUSATIONS OF IMMORALITY, I
WONDER HOW YOU IN THE SPURS OF PRESIDENT CARTER WILL
FARE HERE IN CONFRONTING THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACING
THE UNITED NATIONS?

"A. WELL, I THINK THAT THERE'S A SENSE IN WHICH
MORALITY AND EXPEDIENCY NEED NOT CONFLICT. I WOULD

SAY THAT ANY COUNTRY THAT FINDS IT NECESSARY TO REPRESS ITS CITIZENS IN ANY WAY, IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE, AND THAT THE MORE WHOLESOME THE SOCIETY, THE MORE FREE THE SOCIETY. NOW I THINK THE POSITION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS THAT WE WILL FEEL VERY FREE TO CONDEMN THE MISDEEDS AND DENIALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ANYWHERE THEY OCCUR, BUT THAT IN CONDEMNING THOSE MISDEEDS, THAT THAT NEED NOT BE A CONDEMNATION OF THE TOTAL NATION, THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PEOPLE OF THAT NATION. IN OUR NATION WE HAVE HAD INCIDENTS OF DENIALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND VIOLATIONS ON PERSONS HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY PARTICULAR PROTECTION AGAINST CRITICISM FOR OUR OWN MISDEEDS. IT'S A FEELING THAT THE WORLD WILL BE A BETTER PLACE IF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AND PROTECTED AND IF THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE IN WHICH VIOLATIONS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE CLEARLY DENOUNCED BY EVERYONE. I, COMING OUT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF APPRECIATION FOR THE POWER OF WHAT WE CALL THE 'COURT OF WORLD OPINION.' THERE WERE TIMES IN THE SOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES WHEN IT WAS LARGELY INTERNATIONAL REACTION THAT MADE PEOPLE SENSITIVE TO OUR PLIGHT. AND I KNOW THE POWER OF THAT INTERNATIONAL REACTION, SO THAT IN A CASE LIKE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE ANGLICAN BISHOP UNDER THE GUISE OF AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN UGANDA, THAT KIND OF CONDUCT BY A GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS THE CONDUCT OF THE REPORTED EIGHTEENTH PERSON JUMPING OUT OF THE WINDOW IN SOUTH AFRICA, THAT THE WORLD KNOWS BETTER THAN THAT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 00479 190024Z

THAT KIND OF ACTION, I THINK, HAS TO BE CONDEMNED IN THE COURT OF WORLD OPINION AND PUBLIC OPINION, AND THOSE MALICIOUS AND SADISTIC ELEMENTS IN EVERY SOCIETY NEED TO BE CONFRONTED, AND PEOPLE OF GOODWILL WITHIN EVERY SOCIETY, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA AND UGANDA, NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION, I THINK, INTENDS TO DO, BOTH IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND IN OUR INVOLVEMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS, IS TO DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE THOSE ELEMENTS OF GOODWILL WHICH EXIST WITHIN EVERY NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND CONDEMN, WHETHER FRIEND OR FOE, THOSE DEEDS OF DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THOSE SAVAGE INCIDENTS WHICH OCCUR ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH THAT MAKE US ALL ASHAMED."

YOUNG

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